

Members of the Judiciary Committee

I strongly **OPPOSE** Raised HB 6355 AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS. My opposition is because HB 6355 contains little or no language commonly found in fair procedures to identify dangerous individuals. HB 6355 should include the following provisions or procedures.

- Petitions initiated by law enforcement, not by spurned dating partners or relationships from long ago.
- Ex parte hearings only when there is proof of necessity.
- Proof by clear and convincing evidence, which has been corroborated.
- Guarantees of all due process rights, including cross-examination and right to counsel.
- Court-appointed counsel if the respondent so wishes.
- A civil remedy for victims of false and malicious petitions.
- Safe and orderly procedures for relinquishment of firearms.
- Strict controls on no-knock raids.
- Storage of relinquished firearms by responsible third parties.
- Prompt restoration of concealed carry permits for the falsely accused.
- Prompt return of firearms upon the termination of an order.
- Renewal of orders based on presentation of clear and convincing proof.
- Not allowing time-limited orders to be bootstrapped into lifetime prohibition.

Instead of these effective measures, Connecticut legislators have chosen to model HB 6355 using the framework gun control groups have disseminated around the country. Therefore, it is a GUN CONFISCATION BILL, not an effective public safety measure.

Gun control advocates will rationalize the bill's failures by citing misleading evidence of efficacy. No research has found statistically significant crime reduction (including mass shootings) from confiscation laws. Their claims about suicide reduction are based on flawed methodology.

Last, I want to make clear that it is shameful for the Judiciary Committee to raise a bill which strips a significant number of Connecticut residences of several constitutional rights. The Committee would not treat any other group so shamefully. Effective laws cannot be created by disrespecting a large group of law abiding citizens.

Jerry Richard
Deep River Resident